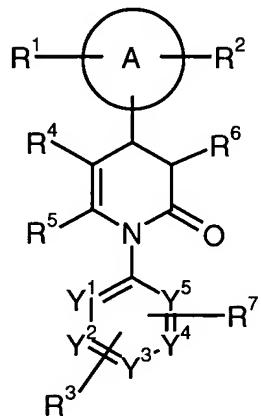


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound Compounds of the general formula (I)



wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

R⁴ represents C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₂-C₆-alkenoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, N-(heterocyclyl)-aminocarbonyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, phenyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl, and wherein phenyl can be further substituted with halogen and wherein N-(heterocyclyl)-aminocarbonyl can be further substituted with C₁-C₄-alkyl or benzyl,

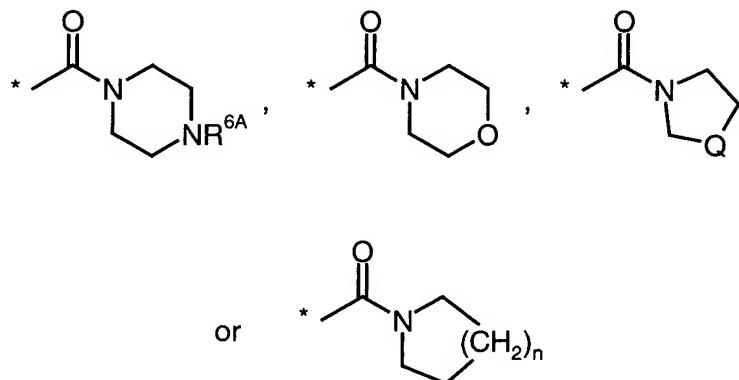
R⁵ represents C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, N-aryl-N-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₂-C₆-alkenoxycarbonyl or aryloxycarbonyl, wherein mono- and di-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, benzyloxy, tri-(C₁-C₆-alkyl)-silyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyloxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-

C₄-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, heterocyclcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, phenyl, heteroaryl and heterocycl, and wherein mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be further substituted with hydroxy or C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

or

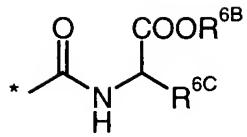
R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, Q represents O or S, and n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6B} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R^{6C} is an amino acid side chain,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms,

or a salt thereof and their salts, hydrates and/or solvates, and their tautomeric forms .

2. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to Claim 1, wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

R⁴ represents C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, amino-carbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino and heteroaryl,

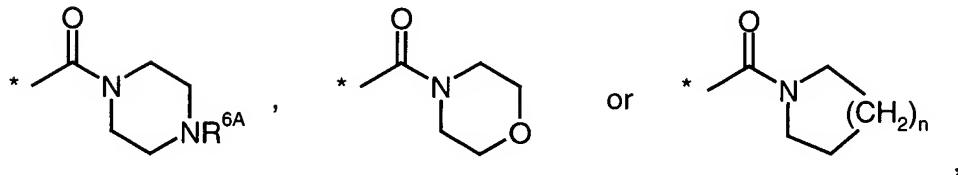
R⁵ represents C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, wherein mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with one to three

identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, phenyl and heteroaryl,

or

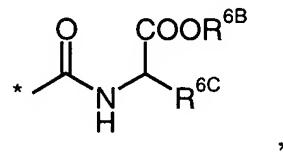
R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆-alkyl, and n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6B} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R^{6C} is an amino acid side chain,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein

A represents an aryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy,

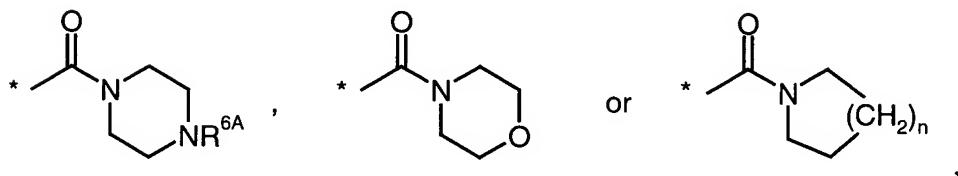
R⁴ represents C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with one to two identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, methoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino,

R⁵ represents methyl or ethyl,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl,

or

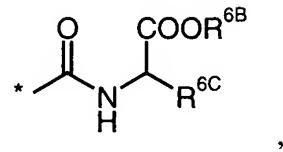
R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl, and n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

or

R^6 represents a moiety of the formula



wherein $R^{6\text{B}}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl, and $R^{6\text{C}}$ is an amino acid side chain,

R^7 represents hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methyl or ethyl,

and

Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 and Y^5 each represent CH.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein

A represents a phenyl ring,

R¹ represents hydrogen or methyl,

R² represents cyano, bromo or nitro,

R³ represents hydrogen,

R⁴ represents C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with hydroxycarbonyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl,

R⁵ represents methyl,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl,

R⁷ represents trifluoromethyl or nitro,

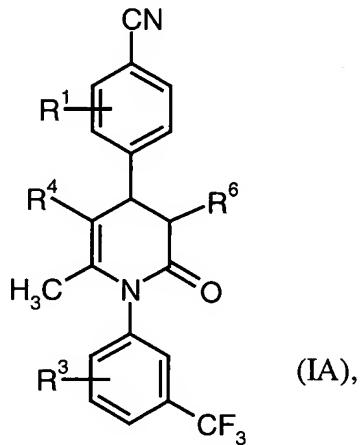
and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ each represent CH.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to
claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein A is phenyl.
6. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to
claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein R¹ is hydrogen.
7. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to
claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein R² is cyano.
8. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to
claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 7~~, wherein R³ is hydrogen.
9. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to
claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 8~~, wherein R⁴ is C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or cyano.
10. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to
claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 9~~, wherein R⁵ is methyl.
11. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to
claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 10~~, wherein R⁶ is hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-methyl- or -ethylaminocarbonyl, methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound Compounds of general formula (I) according to claim 1 at least one of ~~Claims 1 to 11~~, wherein R⁷ is trifluoromethyl or nitro.

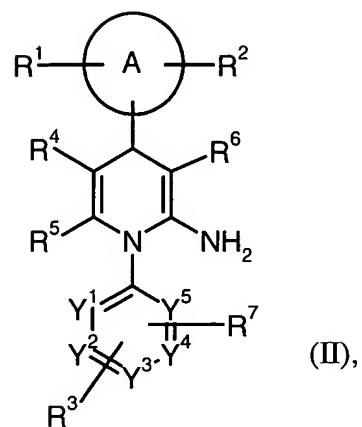
13. (Currently Amended) A compound Compounds of general formula (IA)



wherein R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁶ have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 12~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A Process Processes for synthesizing the compound compounds of general formula (I) or (IA), respectively, as defined in Claims 1 and to 13, wherein characterized in that

[A] a compound compounds of the general formula (II)

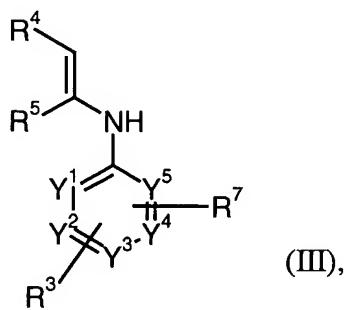


wherein R^1 to R^7 , A and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~,

is ~~are~~ hydrolyzed with water,

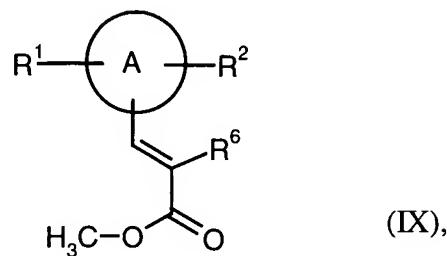
or

[B] a compound ~~compounds~~ of the general formula (III)



wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^7 , and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~,

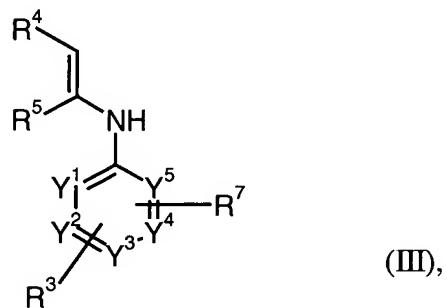
is are reacted with a compound compounds of the general formula (IX)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^6 and A have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

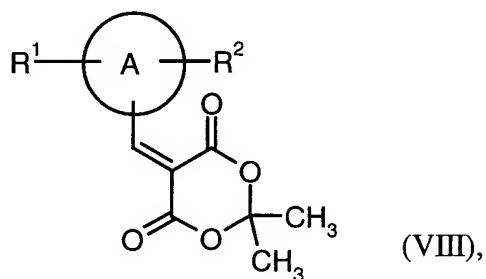
or

[C] a compound compounds of the general formula (III)



wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^7 , and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

are reacted with a compound ~~compounds~~ of the general formula (VIII)



wherein R¹ and R² have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical ~~The~~ composition containing at least one compound of general formula (I) or (IA), as defined in claim 1 or 13 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~, and a pharmacologically acceptable diluent.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process for the preparation of compositions according to Claim 15 and 16 characterized in that the compounds of general formula (I) or (IA), as defined in claim 1 or 13 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~, together with customary auxiliaries are brought into a suitable application form.
18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~Process for controlling~~ chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute coronary syndrome, acute myocardial infarction or development of heart failure in humans and animals comprising administering a ~~by administration of an~~ neutrophil elastase inhibitory amount of at least one compound according to any of Claims 1 or to 13.